

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 8, 2007 (hereinafter "Office Action") rejected Claims 1-12 and 27-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention and Claim 27 as further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Further, the Office Action objected to Claim 2 on the basis of an informality. Furthermore, the Office Action rejected Claims 1, 27, 28, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,674,510, issued to Sneider (hereinafter "Sneider"). Additionally, Claims 3, 4, 5, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sneider in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,569,345 (hereinafter "Kenyon"). Claims 2 and 10 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sneider. Still further, the Office Action objected to Claims 6-9, 11, 12, and 31-35, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of the allowability of the aforementioned claims.

In order to advance prosecution of the allowable subject matter, applicant has amended the claims as set forth above to pursue the allowable subject matter of Claims 6-9, 11, 12, and 31-35. Specifically, amended independent Claim 1 includes the limitations of canceled Claims 4 and 6. Amended independent Claim 7 includes the limitations of Claims 1 and 4. Amended independent Claim 8 includes the limitations of Claims 1 and 4. Amended independent Claim 9 includes the limitations of Claims 1 and 4. Amended independent Claim 11 includes the limitations of Claims 1 and 10. Amended independent Claim 12 includes the limitations of Claims 1 and 10. Independent Claim 27 has been amended to include the limitations of canceled Claims 30 and 31. Amended independent Claim 32 includes the limitations of Claims 27 and 30. Amended independent Claim 33 includes the limitations of Claims 27 and 30. Amended

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independent Claim 34 includes the limitations of Claims 27 and 30. Amended independent Claim 35 includes the limitations of Claims 27 and 30.

To additionally advance prosecution, applicant has amended the relevant rewritten claims as set forth above to eliminate the language giving rise to the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections. Applicant has also amended Claim 2 to correct the minor informality raised by the Examiner. The remaining rejections are considered moot in view of applicant's pursuit of the allowable subject matter. Nonetheless, applicant reserves the right to pursue the canceled and non-pursued subject matter in subsequent continuation and divisional applications.

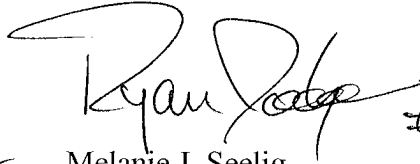
Since all of the claims remaining in this application (Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 27-29, and 32-36) include allowable subject matter, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are in condition for allowance. The other claims are canceled.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing claim amendments and remarks, applicant submits that all of the pending claims remaining in the application, i.e., Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 27-29, and 32-36, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application and allowance of the remaining claims at an early date are solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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